

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

AGR-20 SS-20 NSC-10 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 OMB-01 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8127

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02280

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, US, UK

SUBJECT: ARTICLE XXIV:6 -- RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 20

DINNER

1. MARTIN LAM (UNDER SECRETARY, DTI) HAS SUMMARIZED
FOR US THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE
XXIV:6 AT THE FEBRUARY 20 DINNER FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE. (IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT
THE BRITISH AS THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION. THEIR
CONTINUED ABILITY TO BE AS OPEN WITH US AS THEY HAVE
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BEEN IN THE PAST ON ARTICLE XXIV:6 WILL DEPEND ON OUR

ABILITY TO TREAT THE INFORMATION THEY GIVE US WITH
MAXIMUM DISCRETION.)

2. LAM SAID THAT THE RESULT OF THE DINNER WAS "QUITE
USEFUL." SOAMES, WHO WAS PRESENT, HAD "OBVIOUSLY
BEEN SHAKEN" BY HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON, AND ALL
OF THE MEMBER STATES EXCEPT FRANCE AGREED THAT THE
COMMUNITY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE A FEW MORE CON-
CESSIONS IF THESE WOULD RESULT IN THE SUCCESSFUL CON-
CLUSION OF THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS. LAM SAID
THAT THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED "DOUBTS AND
DISQUIET" OVER THE IDEA OF FURTHER CONCESSIONS, BUT
WAS NOT AS NEGATIVE AS HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

3. ALL THE MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING FRANCE, AGREED
THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD WAIVE THE SIX-MONTH DEADLINE
IN GATT ARTICLE XXVIII:4 (D) FOR THE MODIFICATION OR
WITHDRAWAL OF CONCESSIONS. IT IS LAM'S UNDERSTANDING
THAT SOAMES CAN INFORM THE US NOW, WITHOUT WAITING FOR
A COUNCIL DECISION, THAT THE COMMUNITY IS PREPARED TO
AGREE TO SUCH A WAIVER.

4. LAM SAID THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG
ALL THE OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE DINNER, EXCEPT THE
FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE
TO FIND A FORMULA FOR CEREALS, EVEN IF IT WERE ONE
THAT INCORPORATED DIVERGENT EC AND US POSITIONS. ALL
THE OFFICIALS PRESENT, EXCEPT THE FRENCH, ALSO AGREED
THAT IT WAS ABSURD TO ALLOW THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 ISSUE
TO CONTINUE TO FESTER IF A FEW MORE EC CONCESSIONS
ON SPECIFIC ITEMS COULD BRING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. ACCORDING TO LAM, SOAMES SAID
THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT GET INTO ANOTHER
"HAGGLING MATCH," AND SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT ITS NEXT
OFFER IS ONE THAT THIRD COUNTRIES WILL ACCEPT. LAM
SAID THAT THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED
"SCEPTICISM" OVER THE IDEA OF A CEREALS FORMULA AND
ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS BUT HE WAS NOT ENTIRELY
NEGATIVE. LAM SAID THAT SPECIFIC ITEMS, SUCH AS
CITRUS, TOBACCO, DUMPERS, ETC., WERE NOT DISCUSSED
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IN DETAIL AT THE FEBRUARY 20 DINNER.

5. THE NEXT MOVE, LAM SAID, IS NOW UP TO THE
COMMISSION, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A REPORT ON
ARTICLE XXIV:6 AT THE MARCH 4-5 COUNCIL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, TARIFF CONCESSIONS, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON02280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740218/aaaaarcn.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARTICLE XXIV:6 -- RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 20 DINNER
TAGS: ETRD, US, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005